

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-29 were pending in the present application. The present response cancels claims 24-29, and adds new claims 30-46; leaving pending in the application claims 30-46. Consideration of the newly presented claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Kodera* (US 5,695,601) in view of *Norton* (US 5,486,701) and *Hignette* (US 5,101,393), or alternatively as being obvious over *Kodera* in view of *Adams* (US 4,899,055) and *Hignette*. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections, claims 24-29 have been canceled in order to expedite examination and issuance of the newly added claims, which cover different aspects of the present invention. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are now moot.

II. Newly Presented Claims

Claims 30-46 have been added to cover different aspects of the present invention. For instance, new claim 39 has been added to recite a method defined by:

transferring a processed wafer from a wafer process station to a metrology station spaced apart but coupled to the process station, the metrology station containing a moveable chuck for receiving and supporting the wafer and a moveable measurement head for measuring the wafer;

rotating the moveable chuck when an orientation of the wafer needs adjustment;

adjusting a position of the moveable measurement head relative to the wafer when the moveable measurement head is not aligned with a measurement location on the wafer;

generating a broadband light beam using a light source that is external to the moveable measurement head;

directing the broadband light beam toward the wafer using an optical fiber coupling the light source to the moveable measurement head;

using a first spectrometer to obtain a first measurement of spectral content of the broadband light beam which has been reflected from the wafer;

using a second spectrometer to obtain a second measurement of spectral content of the broadband light beam which has not been reflected from the wafer; and

receiving the first and second measurements to a processor and evaluating the sample based on the first and second measurements, where the second measurement is used to correct for system characteristics.

These claims are supported by the specification and do not add new matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request consideration of newly presented claims 30-46.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

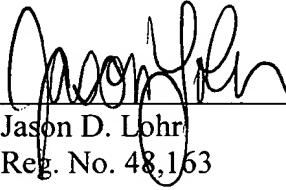
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order No. TWI-30200. **A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed February 17, 2004, is provided herewith.**

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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